

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an Integrated Governance program, comprising:

a plurality of governance sources monitoring respective governance areas within a business enterprise, the plurality of governance sources including an audit group, a security group, an ethics group, a compliance group, and a business controls group;

a plurality of governance databases, each database maintained by a respective governance source;

at least one or more communication networks interconnecting the plurality of governance databases; and

an integrated governance team reviewing data within the plurality of governance databases to identify significant issues for the enterprise in the governance areas, the integrated governance team including representatives from each of the plurality of governance sources, wherein each representative of a governance source is responsible for identifying and summarizing relevant data in his or her governance area across a plurality of business units that contain reports of enterprise non-compliance within the business enterprise using a common analytical process,

wherein after the integrated governance team identifies a significant issue in a governance area, a business unit is attempted to be determined to take ownership in resolving the issue, wherein the integrated governance team takes ownership of the issue when the issue is new and has not been previously assigned to a business unit or when the issue occurs across more than one business unit.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the integrated governance team further determines a plan, at an enterprise level, to address the significant issue across the enterprise.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a database of the integrated governance team for storing a summary of governance information from the plurality of governance databases.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of governance sources further include at least one from the group of an audit department, a security department, an ethics department, a business controls department, and a compliance department a legal department.

5. (Currently Amended) An Integrated Governance method, comprising the steps of:

individually summarizing data from a plurality of governance databases located on a business network of a business enterprise, wherein the plurality of governance databases is maintained by a plurality of governance departments, the plurality of governance departments including an audit department, a security department, an ethics department, a compliance department, and a business controls department;

reviewing the data at an enterprise level by an integrated governance team to identify one or more significant issues to the business enterprise;

determining a plan, at the enterprise level, to address the significant issue across the business enterprise; and

communicating the plan to each operational unit within the business enterprise, wherein the integrated governance team includes representatives from each of the plurality of governance departments, wherein each representative of a governance department is responsible for identifying and summarizing relevant data in his or her governance area across a plurality of business units that contain reports of enterprise non-compliance within the business enterprise using a common analytical process, wherein after the integrated governance team identifies a significant issue in a governance area, a business unit is attempted to be determined to take ownership in resolving the issue, wherein the integrated governance team takes ownership of the issue when the issue is new and has not been previously assigned to a business unit or when the issue occurs across more than one business unit.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the plan involves developing business controls for addressing the significant issue.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: implementing the plan within each operational unit of the business enterprise.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of: tracking the progress of the plan in addressing the significant issue within each operational unit.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: analyzing, at the enterprise level, each significant issue to ascertain a respective cause of the significant issue.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, ~~wherein the plurality of governance databases are maintained by a plurality of governance departments, the governance departments~~ further including at least one from the group of an audit department, a security department, an ethics department, a business controls department, and a compliance department a legal department.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, the individually summarizing step comprising:

electronically accessing each governance database containing governance data for operational units of the enterprise; and

utilizing ~~a person familiar~~ the representative of the governance department associated with a particular governance database to complete a template summarizing the governance data contained in the particular governance database for the operational units.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the template includes areas for providing details concerning the significant issue and the operational units affected by the significant issue.

13. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the method is performed at periodic intervals.

14. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein significant issues include issues that are new and issues that occur across multiple operational units.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, the reviewing step comprising:
utilizing collective knowledge within the business enterprise to identify the one or more significant issues.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the collective knowledge within the business enterprise includes an understanding of current business practices of the operational units.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the collective knowledge within the business enterprise includes an understanding of recent legal matters concerning the enterprise.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:
reviewing the data at the enterprise level to identify one or more issues that occur within a domain of a single operational unit;

determining a strategy, at the single operational unit level, to address the one or more issues that occur within the domain of the single operational unit;

communicating the strategy to each operational unit within the enterprise; and
monitoring the progress of the strategy, at an enterprise level.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing an integrated governance program, comprising the steps of:

forming an integrated governance team to identify problematic issues in designated governance areas across a business enterprise, the integrated governance team comprising members having knowledge of each of the designated governance areas and of operational units within the enterprise;

compiling data from a plurality of databases that contain information regarding the governance areas for a plurality of the operational units in the enterprise;

integrating together data from the plurality of databases to form a comprehensive summary of governance information for the enterprise;

analyzing, as a team, the comprehensive summary to identify one or more significant issues within the governance areas for the enterprise;

utilizing collective knowledge of the integrated governance team to uncover the fundamental cause of the respective significant issue; and

forming, as a team, a comprehensive plan to address the fundamental cause of the respective significant issue across the enterprise,

wherein the integrated governance team includes representatives from each of the plurality of governance departments for the business enterprise, wherein each representative of a governance department is responsible for identifying and summarizing relevant data in his or her governance area across a plurality of business units that contain reports of enterprise non-compliance within the business enterprise using a common analytical process, wherein after the integrated governance team identifies a problematic issue in a designated governance area, a business unit is

attempted to be determined to take ownership in resolving the issue, wherein the integrated governance team takes ownership of the issue when the issue is new and has not been previously assigned to a business unit or when the issue occurs across more than one business unit.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the compiling step is performed by particular members familiar with the information contained in the databases.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ communicating the plan to each of the operational units in the enterprise.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the comprehensive plan involves developing business controls for addressing the respective significant issue